

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (original): A method of embossing expanded graphite sheet material comprising embossing said material in an embossing atmosphere at a reduced pressure less than atmospheric pressure and maintaining a reduced pressure at least during the embossing step.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein said embossing atmosphere is an inert gas.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 2 wherein said inert gas is selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, helium and argon.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein said inert gas is substantially pure nitrogen.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1 further comprising continuing to evacuate gases from said embossing atmosphere during said embossing step.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein said material comprises a plurality of sheet materials comprising at least one expanded graphite sheet, and the method further comprising laminating said plurality of sheet materials during said embossing step.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 6 wherein said plurality of sheet materials comprises at least one sheet of metal foil.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein said reduced pressure is less than or equal to about 400 torr.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein said reduced pressure is less than or equal to about 350 torr.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein said reduced pressure is less than or equal to about 170 torr.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein said reduced pressure is less than or equal to about 50 torr.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising puncturing at least one surface of said material prior to embossing said material.

Claim 13 (original): A method of embossing expanded graphite sheet material comprising removing at least a portion of the gas from within said material by exposing said material to a pressure less than atmospheric pressure, and then embossing said material.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13 wherein said material comprises a plurality of sheet materials comprising at least

one expanded graphite sheet, and the method further comprising laminating said plurality of sheet materials during said embossing step.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 14 wherein said plurality of sheet materials comprises at least one sheet of metal foil.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 13 wherein said reduced pressure is less than or equal to about 400 torr.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 13 wherein said reduced pressure is less than or equal to about 350 torr.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 13 wherein said reduced pressure is less than or equal to about 170 torr.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 13 wherein said reduced pressure is less than or equal to about 50 torr.

Claim 20 (original): The method of claim 13, further comprising puncturing at least one surface of said material prior to exposing said material to said pressure less than atmospheric pressure.

Claims 21-64 (cancelled).